

**School for New Learning
DePaul University
LL 150 ACADEMIC WRITING FOR ADULTS
Course Syllabus**

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Location: School for New Learning
DePaul University
Loop

Times/Dates: Tuesdays, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Course Description

In this course, SNL students focus on writing to competence. Students develop and practice writing skills associated with effective performance in SNL courses and SNL assignments. Students review and apply the essentials of good writing by identifying and building on their particular strengths and improving their work in problem areas. In addition to receiving individual feedback and guidance from the instructor on grammar, development and use of outlines, and using the ideas of sources to formulate arguments, students learn to give feedback on writing to one another.

Specifically, students will produce two written projects: a short essay, and a 5-page research paper. Classes will cover the following topics: idea generation, using research materials, developing outlines, building arguments, citing source material, and producing bibliographies. Students will also do extensive work in editing and rewriting to meet course goals.

Competencies

L-4: Can write clearly and fluently.

1. Analyzes the audience and purpose of written communication.
2. Writes to explain, describe, and persuade.
3. Generates appropriate ideas and details in well-developed, well-supported paragraphs.
4. Employs tools of Standard English usage and mechanics.

Required Texts and Course Materials

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. They Say I Say. Norton, 2006.

Hacker, Diane. A Writer's Reference, latest edition, Bedford/St. Martin's: Boston, 2003.

Norton Reader, latest edition.

Student requirements

1. Personal Narrative (3 pages)
2. Short Research paper (5-7 pages)
3. Participation in all class activities

In each of these assignments, students will demonstrate their ability to use standard English grammar and spelling. Furthermore, students will be expected to organize their work according to topic and assignment demands. There are no quizzes or examinations in this course.

All SNL faculty are bound by the University's guidelines on academic integrity found in the Student

Handbook. See the Citation Handout for more information on this topic. Adult learners can and should help design the learning experiences and demonstration of competence. You are encouraged to make suggestions on course process.

Criteria for Assessment

College Writing is a Pass/Fail course. In order to successfully complete this experience, students must:

1. attend class and participate in class activities;
2. submit class assignments on time;
3. meet the standards of the L4 competence as listed above.

Class Schedule

This schedule lists writing assignments and reading assignments from the course text. Other assignments will be distributed in class.

Week 1

Introduction to writing at SNL
Discussion of the personal narrative
Assignment and syllabus review
Read for next session: *Hacker*, Sections B and G
Chang-Rae Lee, COMING HOME AGAIN
Lars Eighner, ON DUMPSTER DIVING

Week 2

Beginning the Short Essay assignment: idea generation and free-writing
Introduction to the system of English grammar
Read for next session: *Hacker*, Sections S, and C1- C4
Toni Morrison, BEAUTY...
Annie Dillard, TERWILLIGER BUNTS ONE
Write rough draft of **Short Essay (Personal Narrative)**

Week 3

Peer Editing Session -- BRING 3 COPIES OF ROUGH DRAFT
Building arguments
Types of writing with in class work on organization
Read for next session: *Hacker*, Sections C-5 and C-6
Toni Morrison, STRANGERS
Kathleen Norris, THE HOLY USE OF GOSSIP

Week 4

Short Essay due
Data collection
Begin the research paper: idea generation and freewriting
Read for next week: David Guterson, ENCLOSED, ENCYCLOPEDIA...
Harvey Mansfield, THE PARTIAL ECLIPSE OF MANLINESS
Scott Russell Sanders, LOOKING AT WOMEN
Amy Cunningham, WHY WOMEN SMILE

Week 5

NO CLASS – INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Read for next session: Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, ON THE FEAR OF DEATH
John Holt, HOW TEACHERS MAKE CHILDREN...

Week 6

Feedback on Short Essay.

Introduction to citation

Developing the outline

Read for next session: *Hacker*, Section R
Caroline Bird, COLLEGE IS A WASTE OF TIME ...
Brent Staples, BLACK MEN AND PUBLIC SPACE
Brent Staples, WHY COLLEGES SHOWER THEIR...

Week 7

First draft due

In-class editing

Read for next session: *Hacker*, Sections P, W, and M
Jonathan Raisch, IN DEFENSE OF PREJUDICE
Jonathan Swift, A MODEST PROPOSAL

Week 8

Critical reading of sources

Read for next session: *Hacker*, Section T
Henry Wechsler et al, TOO MANY COLLEGES ARE STILL IN
DENIAL ABOUT ALCOHOL ABUSE

Week 9

Second draft due

Peer editing

Building the bibliography

Review: grammar, organization, citations/quotations, etc.

Week 10

Final draft due

Wrap-up and Review of L4

1. SNL Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory in SNL courses. Students and faculty are expected to arrive on time, and to participate in every scheduled class session. Missing class makes assessment a difficult process, and all students who miss any classwork are subject to grade reduction. Students who miss more than 2 class sessions of this course are subject to failure. Papers must be handed in on time (hard copy, handed in at the class session indicated on the syllabus): late papers will immediately result in a failing grade.

2. SNL Incomplete Policy

The student who wishes to receive the grade of IN must formally request in writing that the instructor issue this grade. This request must be made before the end of the quarter in which the student is enrolled in a course. Deadline for assignments are established and adhered to by the Faculty.